TV Tips And Comments

Programs And

CBS Executives Take Time For Questions

By JO BRADLEY REED
Citizen-Journal TV-Radio Editor

On our recent visit to New York and Hollywood, TV editors had an interesting meeting with CBS-TV's working news personnel in New York.

Jo Reed

It was the week of the Middle East crisis, yet newscasters took time to sit for a half hour and answer questions. In the center of the long table was white-haired Bill Leonard, CBS news vice president in charge of programs. He was flanked by Walter Cronkite, Mike Wallace, Harry Reasoner and Les Midgley.

AFTER A few questions, Midgley became target for most inquiries. He is producer of the special, "The Warren Report Inquiry."

Since that meeting, the program, scheduled for three hours on three consecutive nights, has been extended to four programs. First will be telecast at 10 p.m. Sunday on Ch. 10, with follow-up reports at the same time Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

THE PROGRAM is an in-depth study of the official report on President Kennedy's assassination with examination of major questions raised by critics.

Midgley said, "we selected a series of principal questions. You are all aware of the controversies. Each night will address itself to certain questions and these lead themselves to recapitulation in pretty good terms the next day."

"THE FIRST telecast will deal mainly with Oswald, the assassination and a reconstruction of events of the fateful day and the following weekend. This will include the Oswald slaying.

"Monday night we'll take up theories of conspiracy," said Midgley, "in which the direction the shots were fired. In other words, if they didn't all come from some place—a single place, then, obviously, there was something else involved.

"THEN IN the last part, we will take up questions involving the Commission. And, as final question, according to the polls, about how many Americans do not believe the whole story."

The program will present hard evidence. "We decided to make some tests of our own. For example, since we couldn't fire Oswald's rifles, we got a collection of exactly the same rifles . . . We conducted some very extensive photo analyses to see if there were things we could discover new facts on. And there are . . .

MIDGLEY AND his crew were working before District Attorney Garrison's disclosure.

Midgley said Gordon Novelle, one of the witnesses Garrison wants in New Orleans, now in Columbus had been quizzed by a researcher.

"This matter presents difficulties" was his reply, "because he is a part of a court case. It's my understanding we are not supposed to intervene in the case . . . The trial probably won't take place for a year, or something—and when the appeals come on, who knows how long it's going to take."

"BUT, OF course, if there's a verdict, that's something. It's strictly my personal understanding — Mr. Garrison believes there was a conspiracy in New Orleans in which the matter of the President's assassination was discussed . . ."

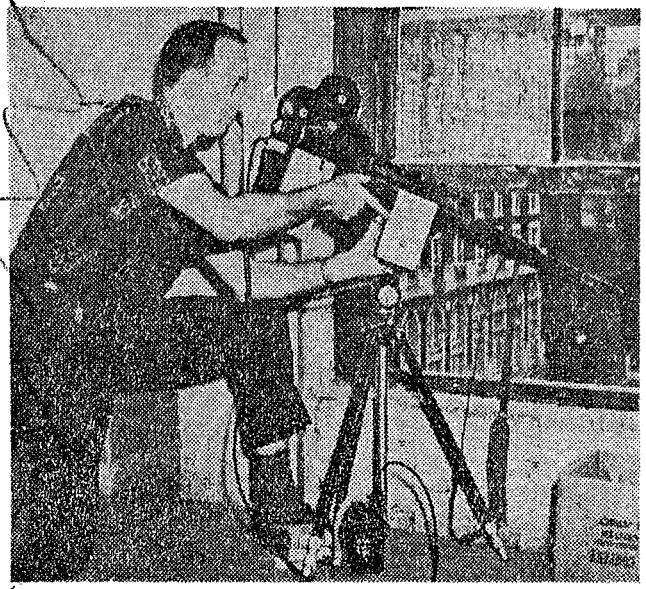

Photo Exhibit 887 is a re-enactment of the Kennedy assassination taken from "The Warren Report." The subject of four one-hour program special CBS News Inquiry begins Sunday and ending Wednesday. All will be seen at 10 p.m. nightly on Ch. 10.

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We were about to give up when we felt a tap on the shoulder. Turning, we faced Bill Teague, who just a days before had complete year's study at Columbia U versity as the recipient CBS-WBNS's scholarship. was a former reporter on Citizen.

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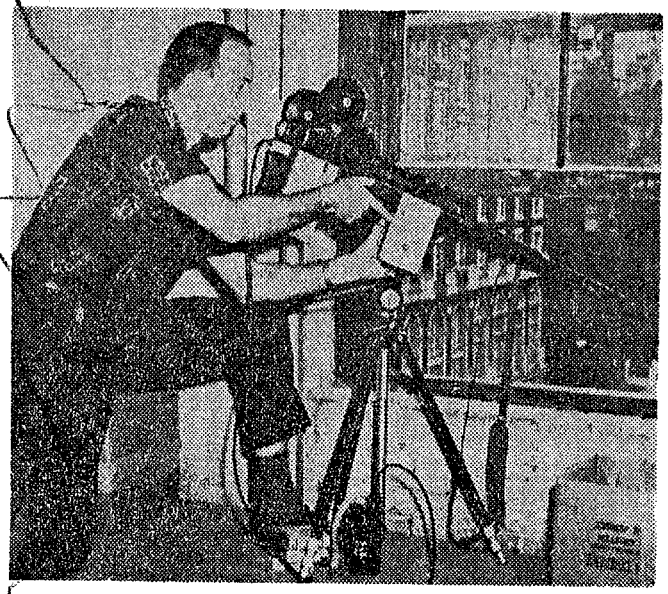

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